



State of Colorado

LEGISLATIVE REQUEST FOR INTERIM STUDY COMMITTEE

To: Legislative Council

Requested by: Representative Michaelson Jenet
With support of: Representative(s) Kipp.

Re: Request for interim study committee regarding P.T.S.D. Support for Peace Officers

Date: 4/5/2019

Information Required Pursuant to Section 2-3-303.3, C.R.S.

I hereby request that an interim study committee be formed to study support for peace officers experiencing post-traumatic stress disorder (P.T.S.D.) and other stress-related mental health issues during the interim between the 2019 and 2020 legislative sessions. The interim study committee would be named the "P.T.S.D. Support for Peace Officers Interim Study Committee."

The policy issues to be studied are:

- Prevention and identification of P.T.S.D. and other stress-related mental health issues faced by peace officers;
- Best practices for treatment of stress-related mental health issues, including, but not limited to, sharing resources across law enforcement agencies, the use of centralized treatment databases, and establishing peer support groups;
- Peace officers' exposure to traumatic events while acting under color of authority in off-duty incidents;
- Costs associated with peace officers experiencing stress-related issues;
- Necessary changes to worker's compensation laws; and
- Methods to raise awareness of mental health issues faced by peace officers.

The interim study committee would need to meet six times to study the issues.

The interim study committee should consist of seven members of the General Assembly selected as follows:

- Three members of the Senate, with two appointed by the President of the Senate and one appointed by the minority leader of the Senate.
- Four members of the House of Representatives, with three appointed by the Speaker of the House of Representatives and one appointed by the minority leader of the House of Representatives.

The Speaker of the House will appoint the chair and the President of the Senate will appoint the vice-chair.

The appointments must be made by June 1, 2019.

The interim study committee will need five bills to address the issues it studies.

Additional Information Related to the Interim Study Committee Request

The interim study committee may call upon the Colorado State Patrol; the Department of Corrections; the Department of Personnel and Administration; the Department of Public Safety, including the Colorado Bureau of Investigation; and the Department of Public Health and Environment to provide assistance or information to the interim study committee. Additionally, individuals and organizations with experience in law enforcement and mental health treatment may be called upon to provide assistance or information.

Thank you for your consideration of this request.